

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. – 20. (cancelled).

21. (currently amended) A thermal barrier coating material applicable to a thermal barrier coating for coating the surface of a base metal comprising as a main component an oxide expressed by the compositional formula $A_2B_2O_7$, wherein A is an element selected from the group consisting of La, Nd, and Sr and B is one or more elements ~~an element~~ selected from the group consisting of Zr, Ti, Si, Nb, and Ta,

wherein said oxide is an oxide selected from the group consisting of $Sr_2Nb_{2-x}Ti_xO_7$ wherein $0 < x \leq 2$ and $Sr_2Nb_{2-x}Zr_xO_7$ wherein $0 < x \leq 2$.

22. (currently amended) A thermal barrier coating material applicable to a thermal barrier coating for coating the surface of a base metal comprising as a main component an oxide containing Nb and either an alkaline earth metal or a rare earth element,

wherein said oxide is an oxide selected from the group consisting of $Sr_4Nb_{2-x}Ti_xO_9$ wherein $0 < x < 2$ ~~$0 < x \leq 2$~~ and $Sr_4Nb_{2-x}Zr_xO_9$ wherein $0 < x < 2$ ~~$0 < x \leq 2$~~ .

23. (cancelled).

24. (currently amended) A thermal barrier coating material applicable to a thermal barrier coating for coating the surface of a base metal comprising as a main component an oxide

containing Ta and an alkaline earth metal,

wherein said oxide is an oxide selected from the group consisting of $\text{BaTa}_{2-x}\text{Ti}_x\text{O}_6$ wherein $0 < x < 2$ $0 < x \leq 2$ and $\text{BaTa}_{2-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_6$ wherein $0 < x < 2$ $0 < x \leq 2$.

25. – 28. (cancelled).

29. (previously presented) A thermal barrier coating material comprising as a main component, a composition of a combination of zirconia material and an oxide as in claim 21.